



JANUARY 1981

NEWSLETTER

* A GOOD NEWS ISSUE !! *



NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 27, 1981
PLACE: First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti (corner of Washington and Emmet)
SPEAKER: Mr. Tom Durant
PROGRAM: "OLD TOWN HALL - YPSILANTI'S MOST SPECTACULAR RESCUE"



Mr. Durant, contractor for the restoration of Ypsilanti's old city hall, will present a show-and-tell program - slides and discussion - of the rescue and restoration of that crown jewel of North Huron Street, Old Town Hall. Basing his program on before-and-after slides of the project, Mr. Durant will focus on specific, out-of-the-ordinary problems which he faced during this monumental task.

Don't waste time in front of the TV when you can cheer yourself up among friends and neighbors as you look and listen to the story of **HOW THEY PUT IT BACK TOGETHER**, and thereby helped tremendously to turn this town around, moving toward a more positive image of itself and a restoration of some of its former glory.

Come with questions! Mr. Durant is expecting them!! You will have at your mercy for an hour or more a man whose expertise is invaluable. Don't miss this rare opportunity!!!

REFRESHMENTS provided, of course!



NEW MEMBERS:

Membership continues to grow. We are delighted to extend our welcome to these new members:

Dick Leinbach
507 Oakwood

Vickie Buffet
322 Maple

Martha Hamlin
3695 W. Waters, AA

Sandra Knight
613 E. Cross

David & Ethel McGaffin
2165 Midvale

Lynn Tabor
417 Maple

Jerrold & Janet Joseph
1102 Kingwood

Steven & Mary Jentzen
118 S. Huron

* NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS !!

Have you noticed ...

... the newly installed shutters on the south side of the Durant Building (Sesquicentennial Hall)? What a change is there, from frightening decay to solid elegance!

Have you heard ...

... that Andy Smith has already had an open house for his five new apartments over the old Cunningham Drug Store building (originally the Light Guard Armory). Each apartment has a splendid new bath, small kitchen, and lots of light from the old windows. ALL are already rented. Exterior improvements to follow in the spring. Congratulations, Andy !

* 1981 YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL UNDERWAY:

On Friday, January 9, the Heritage Festival Committee held its first meeting to make plans for the next festival. Nat Edmunds reports that most of the old committee chairpeople are back in the saddle again (which suggests the strong on-going commitment to this major event) but she adds that some chair positions are still open and that there is always need for more volunteers!

* EAST SIDE ASSOCIATION.

Christine Blinn has been elected the new president of the East Side Association. Congratulations!

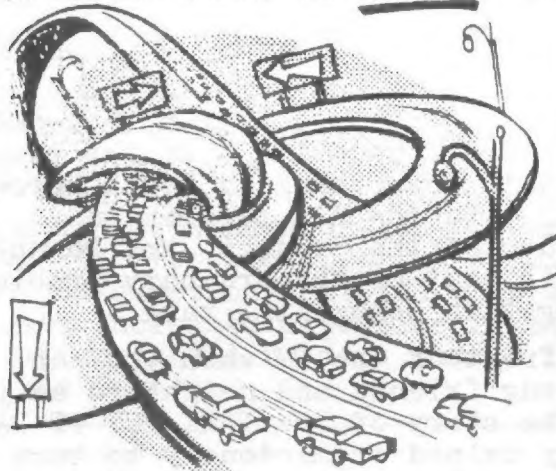
FOUNDATION CALENDARS
for 1981 are still
available!

FREE CLASSIFIED:

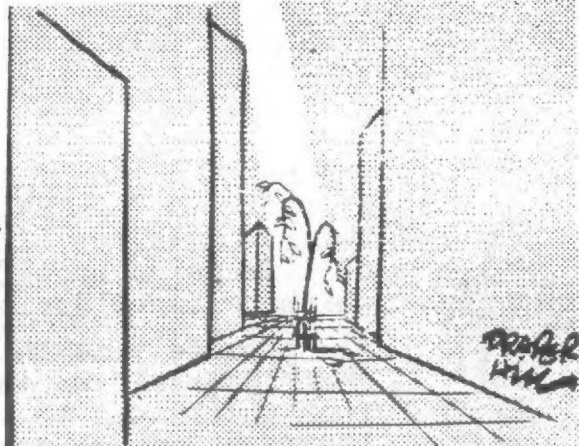
Providing there is room in the current issue, your editor is willing to advertise, free of charge, items for sale or trade. Please, no commercial ads.

Call 485-2155

DEAR LEADER·IS YOUR CITY SUFFERING FROM:



HARDENING OF THE ARTERIES ?



DANGEROUSLY LOW
CHLOROPHYLL LEVELS ?



ELEPHANTIASIS OF
THE PARKING FACILITY ?



OR RAMPANT HINDSIGHT ?

R_x: PRESERVATION-*Before It's too late!*

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS ...

... to implement suggestions from the new Current Activities Committee (Bill Nickels, Nat Edmunds, Jack Harris, David Blinn). The Board is meeting on a regular monthly basis now in an effort to reassess current activities and discuss future plans. Efforts are underway to distribute the work-load among a larger number of the membership. Chairmanships (chairpersonships?) have been assumed for several committees, but not all positions have as yet been filled, and membership in most committees is still wide open. If you are interested in becoming actively involved in any of the following activities of the Foundation, call either the chair listed or Jane Bird (482-8989).

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Calendar of Events (including list of activities, chairs, and volunteers) | Rose Clavez, 487-5173 |
| 2. House Tour | |
| 3. Engagement Calendar | Bruce Rankin, 995-2516 |
| 4. Building (Historic Structure) Markers | Don Randazzo, 482-6144 |
| 5. Marigold Sale | Rose Clavez |
| 6. Christmas Party | Nat Edmunds, 482-5218 |
| 7. Floats, July 4th and Festival | Bill Nickels, 483-8896 |
| 8. Programs | |
| 9. Newsletter | Jack Harris, 485-2155 |
| 10. Bazaar | |
| 11. Refreshments | Christine Blinn, 483-3512 |
| 12. Host/Name Tags, etc. at meetings | Richard Wood, 483-8005 |
| 13. Library | Jane Bird, 482-8989 |
| 14. Legal Advice | John Van Bolt, 483-6972 |
| 15. Publicity | Richard Wood |
| 16. Membership List | Nat Edmunds |
| 17. Awards Program and Correspondence | John Van Bolt |
| 18. Legal Forms and Tax Returns | Jane Bird & John Van Bolt |

Most of the above people, who have committed themselves to the projects as listed, need all the help they can get. Call them now, and let them know of your interest.

IF YOU HAVE SEEN ...

... the wonderful improvements at 110 N. Hamilton, mentioned in our last Newsletter, you may be interested to know that the owners, David and Mickey Young, had all of the old, cracked paint stripped from that building, NOT with a heat gun, but with a HEAT PAD, a new electric device which seems to work wonders, if the speed at which they achieved that top-quality job is any indication. The heat pad was recommended to them by Don Randazzo during one of the Young's sessions with the Historic District Commission. Again, congratulations on an outstanding job, David and Mickey!

Ypsilanti Public Schools LOCAL HISTORY Project..

...progresses according to plan. Heritage Foundation members involved are Jerry Fouchey as project facilitator, and Nat Edmunds and Jane Bird as Advisory Board members. More on this exciting development in future issues!

MAYOR IN THE NEWS:

Ypsilanti Mayor George Goodman was featured in a full-length interview in The Ann Arbor News, Saturday, January 10. He was responding to questions about Ypsilanti, its changing image, and local attitudes. To quote the Mayor: "...in terms of perception, I think one thing that has happened is that people from outside the community often see the community in a better light than do the people who live there". On the same page of the same issue were comments from local citizens in response to the question, "What do you like about Ypsilanti?" Comments included: "...sense of community... relatively tension-free atmosphere...much like a small town...efficient and friendly police department, in fact, all city workers are friendly...almost perfect garbage and street services, snow removal, etc. ...the neighborhood and neighborly feeling".

RANDAZZO RETURNS ENLIGHTENED !!

Don Randazzo attended an important national "bricks and mortar" conference in Illinois in November. Financed at the last minute by the Heritage Foundation, when city funds were withdrawn due to the budget crunch, Don has come back laden with sheaves of information on this subject of vital interest to this community. He has already given an hour-long report of his findings to the Historic District Commission, proving beyond question that the trip was worthwhile. Don's increased expertise in this area of preservation should be more than a little useful in the future.

WOODRUFF'S GROVE OPEN AGAIN:

We are very pleased to remind you that Woodruff's Grove, Ypsilanti's fine new restaurant and bar, which suffered a fire shortly before the new year, is open again to serve you.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

It may be worth reminding members that the Commission continues to meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of each month, at City Hall, in the meeting room to the left of the Michigan Ave. entrance. Open to the public.

DON'T FORGET

Please remember that the Ypsilanti Farmers Market is open every Wed. & Sat. in the old freight house in Depot Town. Marvelously fresh vegetables, fruits, and now some specialty meat items are on sale at reasonable prices.

Please also remember that Ypsilanti has its own recycling center, open Wed. & Sat., 9:00-3:00, and located just off Forest Ave. on the new road which follows the tracks into Depot Town. The spirited folks there will gladly take your newsprint, magazines, glass, metal cans, used oil, and cardboard. This is an expanding and vital project!

At the HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 200 North Huron:

Current special exhibit - "Shoes and Slippers", the collection of Carol Ristau, featuring examples in fascinating materials from leather to glass

Beginning 2nd week of February - D.A.R. Exhibit

COMING ATTRACTION:



March 31 meeting - so you bought an old house (or a not-so-old one), replaced the roof, repaired the plumbing, and brought the wiring up to code - and now it's time to paint and choosing a color is a worse problem than all the others?

Help is on the way! Plan ahead - mark your calendar (your Heritage Foundation calendar!) now! John Van Bolt, not long returned from Louisville, Kentucky where he attended a "Decorating the Victorian House" conference co-sponsored by the Old-House Journal and the Victorian Society of America, will show slides (some historic examples, some local) and talk about EXTERIOR COLORS! Lots of new ideas!! Room for discussion (and argument)!!!

DON'T MISS THIS !!!



NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 24, 1981

PLACE: The HUTCHINSON MANSION (High/Scope) !!!
(Corner of North River and East Forest)

SPEAKER: John Van Bolt, Attorney
(Member, Ypsilanti Historic District Commission)

PROGRAM: "VICTORIAN HOUSE COLORS: EXTERIOR"

Mr. Van Bolt, owner (with his wife, Jane) of the charming carpenter's Gothic house at 410 N. Huron, where the Foundation has held its Christmas party for the past two years and which was on Home Tour during Festival 1979, recently attended a conference entitled "Decorating the Victorian House" in Louisville, Kentucky under the auspices of the Old-House Journal and the Victorian Society of America. He will combine local and national examples in his slide presentation and talk about EXTERIOR COLORS!

Bring your notebooks! Lots of new ideas!! Room for discussion - even argument!!! With so many personal tastes vying for attention there could even be a riot (of fun!) So come join us, whether or not you have any immediate plans for painting your own dwelling. (You can always tell the neighbors what colors to paint their houses!) Seriously, this is a rare chance to expand our horizons on this all-too-often frustrating challenge. DON'T MISS THIS COLORFUL PROGRAM - PRESENTED IN THE ELEGANT INTERIOR OF THE HUTCHINSON MANSION !!! Refreshments will be served.

1981 YPSILANTI HERITAGE FESTIVAL:

Nat Edmunds, chairperson of the Festival Committee, reports that meetings are in progress, plans are being laid, and all signals are marked "Go!" for this important annual event. Remember, you can have the satisfaction of feeling INVOLVED as well as being simply an observer-participant in this annual celebration so important to our community. Nat repeats that the Festival needs VOLUNTEERS! Call Nat at 482-5218 or the Chamber of Commerce at 482-4920 NOW!

THE ARTRAIN IS COMING . . .
THE ARTRAIN IS COMING . . .
May 29, 30, 31, June 1, 2

Now at the HISTORICAL
MUSEUM:

Terry and Judy Towler's
fascinating collection of
old bottles, including
some wonderful Ypsilanti
examples!
Worth the trip!!

YPSILANTI POST CARDS !

Hey! Have you heard about the new
Ypsilanti Post Card Collectors Club?
Yes, they're out of the closet at last!
If you'd like to share in the fun, just
bring those old post cards and other
Ypsilanti memorabilia to show, share,
trade or sell. Even if you haven't got
an old Ypsilanti post card to your name,
this is the place to get started - and
meet some new faces and nice friends in
the bargain. The next meeting of this
very informal group will be on Sunday,
March 29, at 6:30 p.m. in the Caboose in
Depot Town.

MARIGOLD SALE Scheduled for May 16

Rosalie Clavez, chairperson of the second annual Heritage Foundation
Marigold Sale, reports that she is still negotiating with nurserymen.
Prices for plants are bound to be a little higher this year, especially
with the cost of heating fuel rising as it is. Still, Rose is undaunted
and is trying to make arrangements for a repeat of last year's performance
on the green to the north of Old Town Hall at the corner of N. Huron and
W. Cross.

She will be glad to hear from volunteers who can give a couple of hours
on sale day and is even prepared to take orders, so call 487-5173. She
hopes to have a larger selection of plants this year, including some
bigger varieties of marigolds. Plan now to support this worthy - and
beautiful - project!

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Bruce and Shelley Rankin
are the proud and happy
parents of a brand new
baby - Charles !

HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS

The Historic Structure Marker committee
members are in the final throes of selecting
a handful of buildings worthy of markers.
As usual, the decision must be based not only
on the historic and/or architectural signifi-
cance of the structure but also on the present
high quality of upkeep.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Inexpensive Wallpaper?

For a good selection of wallpapers in the price range between \$1.45 and \$4.25 per single roll, write to:

Mutual Wallpaper & Paint Co.
812 West Main St.
P.O. Box 3200
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

Jack Harris has the most recent catalog which he would be happy to show you - call 485-2155.

Old Bottle Stains?

Some "stains" are permanent, for they are in fact erosions. However, if the stain has been caused by former contents, try filling the bottle 2/3 full with warm water, then add two capfuls of a household cleaner and the crushed shells of two eggs. Shake. Empty and rinse.

Bottle Stopper Stuck?

Put the bottle in the freezer upside down for 10-15 minutes. Then remove from freezer and run tepid water over the neck of the bottle (where the stopper is stuck). The combination of the cold, which causes the stopper to contract, and the warm, which expands the neck, allows the stopper to slip out.

Keeping Baskets Clean?

To clean a basket, try baking soda and warm water applied with a toothbrush. Rinse by dipping toothbrush in water and brushing over basket again. Don't let it soak. For added protection, baskets may be shellacked "once every hundred years".

.....From the February 1981 issue of
House and Garden

COMING ATTRACTION, May 26 meeting:

Very special speaker for May will be Deputy Joe Marshall of the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Dept., speaking on the theft and protection of art and antiques.

DON'T MISS THIS !!

Mark your Hert. Fnd. calendar now !!

Also in May - Our annual presentation of
Historic Structure Markers !!

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 26, 1981 - 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: The HUTCHINSON HOUSE (High/Scope)
at the
corner of North River and East Forest

SPEAKER: Deputy Joe Marshall, Washtenaw County Sheriff's
Department

PROGRAM: THE PROTECTION OF ART, ANTIQUES, AND OTHER VALUABLES
FROM THEFT AND VANDALISM
and
THE PRESENTATION OF HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS

Have you worried about the theft of your most treasured possessions?
Wondered what to do to prevent the loss of your precious antiques?
Worried about your special collection of coins, paintings, silver?

We've got the perfect person for you! Deputy Joe Marshall is not only a law enforcement officer doing his job - he is genuinely and personally interested in this subject. He is a collector of antiques himself and he lives in an old house in Manchester. He not only knows first-hand the problems of theft and vandalism as he has experienced them as a deputy in this area, but he has traveled to other parts of the country and can tell us about similar problems there. He will tell us how to mark our valuables (even coins!) to assist police in recovery. He will brief us on the "fine arts floater" and other special insurance riders we should have. From a few minutes on the phone with Deputy Marshall, your editor can assure you that we have a speaker who is not only knowledgeable, but articulate and enthusiastic about his subject. He says his program will include slides and last for only about thirty minutes, after which he anticipates about twenty minutes of questions. I think, however, he's in for a surprise. START TELLING YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT THIS EVENT RIGHT NOW - let's pack the elegantly restored central room of the Hutchinson House for this important occasion.

The owners of the following buildings will be awarded Historic Structure markers and will be our Guests of Honor:

Mr. and Mrs. John Davis - 138 Hawkins
Mr. and Mrs. Worden Geer - 501 Pearl
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Jentzen - 118 South Huron
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Woodside and Family - 214 North Huron
Ypsilanti Historical Society - 220 North Huron

Slides of all the structures will be shown and refreshments will be served.

Now at the HISTORICAL
MUSEUM:

Special exhibit on early home and school life in Ypsilanti, assembled by Judy Litschel and Jerry Fouchey of the Ypsilanti Public Schools Local History Project.

Don't miss this !

ARTRAIN is coming Have fun in
BOOMER DAYS are coming ... Depot Town!

HERITAGE FOUNDATION Floats:

Bill Nichols is in charge of our floats again this year, both for the July 4th parade and for the Heritage Festival parade. Call Bill at 483-8896 if you have ideas or can offer help!

ARTRAIN ACTIVITIES (May 29 - June 2):

Boomer Days Begin	School Art Exhibit
Golden Garrison Ceremony	Antique Ypsilanti Post Card Show
Farmers Market Grand Opening	Community High School's "Power Play"
Ypsilanti Players Cabaret Theatre	Big Band Concert at the Freight House
New Library Bookmobile Unveiled	Regional Artists to Demonstrate
Recreation Department Soccer Tournament	

There will be a glorious Preview Opening on the 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the Freight House - all are invited! Then, if you have \$10, you can attend the Champagne Reception at Woodruff's Grove later in the evening.

Watch your local paper for times!

PAID ADVERTISING:

Remember, the Foundation has a new policy for paid advertising in the News-letter. The prices are better than "right"! - but only for products and services relating to historic preservation and old-house-renewal. Individual members (not businesses) may still place small ads free of charge. To place ads for the first Fall issue (Sept) call your editor, Jack Harris, at 485-2155.

Ann Arbor Newcomers to visit YPSILANTI:

Jack Harris has agreed to guide a group of ten to fifteen couples, new to Ann Arbor, on an introductory tour of Ypsilanti. Sponsored by the Ann Arbor Coterie, a newcomers' club, the group is scheduled to visit Ypsilanti on May 31 from 1:30 until 5:00. It will be a walking tour which will begin at Old Town Hall and will visit, among other highlights, the Historical Museum and the Michigan Artrain which will be stationed in Depot Town at the time. What a joy to live in a town that you can show off with pride to visitors! Anyone wishing to help Jack in this project, please call 485-2155.

MATERIALS UNLIMITED CITED NATIONALLY:

Materials Unlimited was listed as one of nine places in an article entitled "Where to Find It" in the April issue of House Beautiful (p. 9):

" ... Reclaimed architectural materials in vast variety are available here, including Victorian marble-topped furniture, some sink tops, mantles, front and back bars and work surfaces for kitchen counters".

FOND FAREWELL to JIM WESTFALL!!!

As most of you know, Jim has been planning a move to Florida for some time. It was recently reported that he had actually made the move, but he was spotted soon after that in the Old Town restaurant, apparently unable to stay away! Go south if you must, Jim, but come back often - we will miss you, your incredible memory for Ypsilanti history, your corn casserole, and your ever-ready help with Foundation events. Come home whenever you can!

ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR:

The Heritage Foundation will enrich this year's Yesteryear Heritage Festival by again offering an historic home tour. Variety and individuality are the keynote features of this tour of five residences. Remember, this is not an interior decorating tour; rather, it is an historic preservation tour which offers a variety of architectural styles and adaptations of older buildings. This is a chance to get behind the scenes and see historic preservation in progress! The folks involved in the rehabilitation of some of Ypsilanti's fascinating old structures are people who have been willing to take the plunge, invest their money, imagination and time, do much of the work themselves, and create a living space out of buildings which have all too often gone uncared for and unappreciated.

These are this year's Home Tour buildings:

202 South Huron - William Fennel residence
510 Pearl - Jack Harris-Cliff Larkins residence
415 North Huron - Evangeline Lewis House
504 North Hamilton - Barry & Diane LaRue residence
23 East Cross - Gary & Carolyn McKeever apartment
and studio

DATE: Sunday, August 30

TIME: Noon to 5:00 p.m.

PRICE: \$3.00 adults \$2.00 senior citizens
\$1.50 children 13 and under

Guides are needed - volunteers call Jane Bird, 482-8989

NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS:

You all must remember what this town looked like this spring when the snow was gone - paper, litter, and debris everywhere. It was a mess! It was embarrassing. Most of us who own property must have gotten out and picked up our own fronts, because in the residential areas the town is looking up. But we also have to thank the Washtenaw County Jail crew, under the direction of the Sheriff's Department, for a clean-up in the business districts, especially Depot Town and downtown. Thanks!

The city crews have been at work in Prospect Park planting, we think, flowering crab and maple trees. It's looking great, and we foresee a bright future for our historic east side. Thanks!

The Historic East Side Association has also been at work getting ground ready for the flower beds that they again intend to plant in Prospect Park. This is another gesture to recreate Ypsilanti's wonderful past in a living present. Watch for the plantings, and if you want to get involved in a worthwhile project, call Christine Blinn, 483-3512.

YESTERYEAR HERITAGE FESTIVAL:

Plans are well underway for this third annual event. Most of us need a party, if only for the incentive it gives us to shift into high gear and make our own little corner of the community a more attractive part of town. Let's work to make Ypsilanti an even better place to live and work than it already is! And let's use the excuse of the upcoming 'party' as incentive - the Heritage Festival. If you wish to volunteer your services to any of the multitude of projects that make up the Festival program, call the Visitors and Convention Bureau, 482-4920, NOW!

Here are only some of dozens of exciting Festival events:

The Circus !!

The Parade, of course - a repeat of last year's great event that stirred so much pride in so many of us!

The Home Tour !!

Exciting new Bands and two Fife and Drum Corps, with a muster in Riverside Park!

Covered Wagons and a small Civil War Encampment in Riverside Park

Two Band Concerts & Three Days of Eating Out in the Park!

AND THAT'S ONLY A SAMPLE OF THE FUN !!!

The YPSILANTI PRESS' new, regular historic preservation page, with various items of interest to the community at large and the lovers of historic preservation in particular, is coming SOON! Don't miss this long needed, exciting new service to the community offered by our local press.

Exhibit and Sale of OLD YPSILANTI PHOTOGRAPHS (reproduced):

The Duffy Gallery in the Centennial Center Building at 124 Pearl is now having a sale of reproductions of Iba S. Bassett's photographs of old Ypsilanti scenes from the 1920s to about 1950. This unique exhibit is done in cooperation with the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and is on display at the Gallery through May 27. Call 481-0645 for further information.

HELPFUL HINTS:

What to do about an old drawer that smells musty inside? Try this: get some red cedar shavings from the lumberyard, take out the bottom drawer and, to its back, thumbtack a nylon stocking filled with the shavings. Spread them out thinly inside the stocking so the drawer will still shut all the way.

Drawers that stick? If possible, remove, dust, and rub sides and guides with a candle, paraffin, or drawer lubricant. If drawer won't open all the way, slip a light bulb on an extension cord into it for a few hours to shrink it (put bulb inside wire "trouble light" cage and watch to avoid scorching. Uneven floors can make drawers sluggish - check with a carpenter's level, prop up low end of bureau with wood wedge.

Dull brass hardware? The best way to polish brass hardware is to take it off the furniture first. If you can't, the safest polish is a bit of toothpaste (not the clear, gel type) on a cotton swab. Polish highlights, not edges, buff at once with dry cotton cloth.

(from earlier issues of House and Garden)

"Our preservation of the past is a responsibility to the future."

- Christopher Tunnard

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Jack Harris
510 Pearl
485-2155



Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

SEPTEMBER 1981

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 22, 1981 - 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: The HUTCHINSON HOUSE (High/Scope)
at the
corner of North River and East Forest

SPEAKER: Mr. Hennings, Energy Conservation Spokesperson
for the Detroit Edison Company

PROGRAM: Mr. Hennings will discuss the urgent problem of energy conservation in the old house. He is the Edison Company's representative in charge of this subject, and he has just returned from yet another seminar on the question of energy conservation in the older building. His lecture will last only thirty minutes, after which questions and discussion are expected.

Refreshments will be served in the elegant vestibule of the Hutchinson House. Come, bring a friend, and share in the exchange of information on this subject that affects us all.

HISTORIC HOME TOUR Growing Every Year!

More visitors than ever before - many of them from out of town - visited Ypsilanti's historic structures during the Heritage Festival. From the best count available, it is believed that over four hundred people went through most of the five homes on tour. Profit for the Foundation was well over that for last year's event. Ten per cent of that profit has already been contributed to the Heritage Festival Fund for 1982's Festival. From all reports, everything went smoothly and visitors were pleased with the handling of the tour. Home owners who faced the onslaught were generally pleased with the event itself and were especially grateful for the balmy sunny day, after so much rain. An especial thanks to them and to all of those who worked to make this important annual affair so successful. Again, we've shown that historic architecture is worth saving and using (& showing off!)

HERITAGE FESTIVAL A SUCCESS IN SPITE OF DISASTROUS WEATHER:

Singing "Don't Rain On My Parade" seemed to have no effect whatever on the inclement weather conditions during most of this year's Heritage Festival, August 28, 29 and 30. Still, with most reports in, participating groups did well. It seems evident that this annual event is growing in popularity and weather is not going to stop it. Over 100,000 people attended the festivities this year. Almost everywhere there was an increase in attendance. For example, the Antique Show in two days sold 100 more tickets than they did last year in three! Clearly, Ypsilanti has come through the fire, or at least the rain, on this one and proved that it has established an annual celebration that is bound to attract attention to all the positive elements in this community - its multitude of old and beautiful buildings, its friendly people, its many vital organizations.

Nat Edmunds reports that it's not too early to volunteer your services for next year. The Festival Committee is already looking for people to chair various events. Make a commitment now! Call the Visitors and Convention Bureau, 482-4920, today!

CIRCUS OFFERS NEW SHOW:

This year's Festival circus did 40% better than last and offered an almost entirely new show. Most people - especially those with children (some of whom were in their 50s!) - have expressed a strong desire to see the circus return next year.

LADIES LIBRARY OPENED:

All of Ypsilanti owes Tom Durant and family a hearty thanks for the Grand Opening of that newly restored building on North Huron Street, known in recent years as Sesquicentennial Hall. It was the scene of this year's elegant pre-Festival reception on Thursday evening, August 27. What a superb - exemplary - job of restoration!!

HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER MEETING:

Sunday, October 25
Masonic Temple, 6:00 pm
Ticket information from
Ann McCarthy, 483-2929
or the Museum, 482-4990

We invite
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
510 Pearl

NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS:

The Depot Town area continues to experience a renaissance: witness, for example, the new awnings over the fronts of River Art Works and the Health Emporium. These, coupled with the new canvas canopy over the picnic table in front of Kevin's Bakery, add immeasurably to the sense of a street scene, and street traffic is growing month by month in this part of Ypsilanti. Also noticeable are the improvements to the commercial buildings on River Street (the Millworks and its adjacent building) - new shops and new fronts brighten the scene. Finally, there is the new Miller's Ice Cream Parlor, directly across from Oliver's, which displays more character and class with its historic interior than most shops of its kind we have seen lately, thanks to the imagination and hard work of its owners, Rex and Sally Richie.

Michigan Avenue is also looking up. The awnings are up and a new optical business has opened in the long-shut building at the northeast corner of Huron and Michigan, thanks to owner Oscar Haab and the new tenants. And, as you may have noticed, they're painting up a storm along the avenue. First the old Cunningham Drug building at the northeast corner of Washington and Michigan got a total



NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS, con't.

facelift. Now work is underway on three more commercial buildings across from the Public Library, along the color guidelines suggested by Richard Macias, with whom the city has contracted for his expertise in the area of restoration. We can't wait for the full effect!

ECONOMIC RECOVERY TAX ACT
OF 1981: MAJOR BENEFIT TO
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Washington, D.C., Aug. 20, 1981 - "The historic preservation movement has scored a major victory with the passage of new tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings," Michael L. Ainslie, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, said today. "Developers, landlords, main street merchants and investors who have never been involved with historic buildings will be seeing them as major investment opportunities. With these incentives, preservation is truly coming of age."

"The new 25% investment tax credit for certified rehabilitation of historic buildings for commercial and residential uses will cause a dramatic change of attitude toward preservation," said Ainslie.

Your editor has a summary of the tax incentives in this new act - if interested, call 485-2155, or call the Community Development department at City Hall.

Heritage Foundation BOARD
Meeting:

Thursday, October 1

7:30 p.m.

at VanBolt's, 410 N. Huron
(behind the new Gothic
picket fence and restored
porch railings!)

WELCOME to our newest members:

Carole Barnett
1302 Washtenaw, Ypsilanti

Virginia Snitgen
18828 Hillcrest, Birmingham

Tom and Anne Venner
103 N. Adams, Ypsilanti

Bob and Shari Strauss
1124 Grant, Ypsilanti

Raymond Durrance
1314 Minerva, Ann Arbor

SEEN BECKER-STACHLEWITZ
HOUSE LATELY?

If you haven't been by 601 W. Forest recently, it is worth the trip! Some of you will remember the Heritage Foundation meeting, dedicated to that building, held at Holy Trinity Chapel in November of 1977. Most of you know how precarious seemed the fate of "Stach" as it was affectionately called. Would it fall prey to the wrecker's ball? Would it burn? Or would it simply crumble into the earth? Well, your editor walked past it again the other day, delighted to see workmen laying the lawn like a fresh green carpet. Plants and wicker decorated the upper south bay window. And a young girl, probably a student, walked up the front steps and into her new 'home'. A other student, taken by the transformation, as was your editor, opened a conversation about the structure. She said, not knowing she was talking to an ardent preservationist, that "this building was a definite factor in my deciding to stay on at Eastern". She explained further that she believed there is a definite connection between student morale and the surrounding environment. Watching this building apparently had given her new hope, as it has done for many of us. There's life at the "Stach" - go see! P.S. If you've seen it by day, drive by in the evening when all the lights are on. Dreams sometimes do come true!



HOUSEHOLD HINTS:

Here are a few simple wicker maintenance tricks:

First take it out on the lawn or driveway and wash it thoroughly with mild suds. Hose it down and let the furniture (or basket) dry completely. This washing and soaking not only cleans the wicker but keeps it from getting brittle and the frames and joints from getting loose. Finally, go over the piece carefully, looking for breaks, and mend them with waterproof glue or wrappings of fine wire. If it seems necessary, apply a coat of clear protective sealer.

On washing windows:

Washing windows on a cloudy window is easier than doing it in full sunlight when the rinse water dries too quickly and tends to streak. Use vertical strokes with the cleaning agent on the inside of the window, and horizontal strokes on the outside, so you can quickly tell which side a smudge is on.

Two helpful checklists for preventative home maintenance:

1. Keeping Your Home in Shape: A Maintenance Audit for the Outside of Your Home

Available free from **N.B.I. Meeks**

Owens-Corning Fiberglass Corp.
Fiberglass Tower
Toledo, Ohio 43659

Starting with the roof and moving to the gutters, caulking, siding, masonry, paint, and foundation, the booklet identifies trouble spots and common weathering problems that can lead to costly repairs. A separate checklist helps you decide what corrective measures to take.

2. **Dura-Vent Corp.**

P.O. Box 2249

Redwood City, Calif. 94064, is offering a free checklist for owners of woodstoves and fireplaces to determine if they have been installed and are being maintained properly to prevent any fire hazard. With the answers you get from inspecting your chimney system, you will know whether the services of a trained chimney sweep or some other professional is required.

(All of the above from the September 1981
issue of House and Garden)

PAID ADVERTISING RATES for this Newsletter:

Full page	\$40	1/8 page	\$5	To place ads,
Half page	\$20	1/16 page	\$3	call 485-2155
1/4 page	\$10			



NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 24, 1981 - 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: The Hutchinson House (High/Scope)
at the corner of
North River and East Forest

SPEAKER: Mr. Martin Gillentine

PROGRAM: Mr. Gillentine, who has been in the upholstering and refinishing business here since 1943, has generously consented to share with Foundation members and guests his expertise on the subject of REFINISHING. For newer members of the community who may not know of Gillentine's long established reputation for quality work, let it be known that his name is well known, not only in Ypsilanti, but in the surrounding area as well. Those who are familiar with the name will be delighted for this opportunity to obtain first-hand information about this subject. Bring all those questions you have had stored up since your last refinishing project! If you have a refinishing job in the works now or on the back burner, this is the time to touch off that spark of inspiration to get the job done - and done right!



Members - have you a friend (or two or three) who would be interested in this subject? Bring them along, and assure them that they are very welcome, even if non-members. This is their chance to pick up valuable hints on an always-pesky subject and to enjoy the splendid Hutchinson House. With the Refreshments which will be served, this should be one of the lovelier evenings of the on-coming holiday season.

NEW MEMBERS - We are delighted to welcome these new members to the Foundation:

Loren and Mary Hansen
(Standard Printing)
3265 Herby Rd.
Canton, Mi. 48108

Joe Mattimoe
and
Henry Prebys
301 North Grove

Coming Soon!

The Annual Foundation CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Dues-paid members will soon receive invitations to this year's very festive occasion. It promises to be another beautiful event - plan to pay your dues at the November meeting to ensure that your invitation will be in the mail!



NOTEWORTHY IMPROVEMENTS:

Commercial buildings at two major downtown intersections are sporting handsome new paint jobs - Beneficial Finance, at Michigan and Huron, and the Tap Room at Michigan and Washington. Take time to admire the way the new colors highlight the architectural details on the upper stories of these Italianate structures.

Notice also the welcome new colors on Jim and Suzanne Palasek's house at 516 North Adams ...

and the handsome restored porch railings, both first & second floors, on Jane and John Van Bolt's Carpenter Gothic house at 410 N. Huron - a house now surrounded by a most appropriate Gothic-style fence.

HANDY HINTS:

If you have an old kerosene lamp that is missing any of its parts, write to Tye Schwalbe, old lamp restorer, care of Squaw Alley Hardware, Lamp Parts, Glass and Antiques
106 W. Water St., Naperville, Ill. 60540
Send \$1 for hard-to-find parts catalog.



If you have calcium deposits or lime scale you would like to remove from glassware, tea pots, coffee makers, humidifiers, toilets, sinks and tubs, or rust stains from cement, stucco, porcelain, chrome and metals, try CLR (the letters stand for calcium, lime and rust). Since this product contains phosphoric acid and glycolic acid, it should not be used on marble, aluminum or painted or glazed surfaces. A 32-oz. plastic bottle costs \$3.95, plus \$2 shipping, from Jamie Industries, 6600 N. Lincoln, Lincolnwood, Ill. 60645.

Heritage Foundation BOARD Meeting:

Thursday, Dec. 3
7:30 p.m.
at Bill Nickels,
311 N. Wallace

This is our Annual Meeting

The Nominating Committee, chaired by John Van Bolt, will offer a slate of Board candidates. Nominations from the floor will also be in order.

DUES are Due !!
DUE !!
DUE !!

Mary Warner will
be most happy to
accept your

ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY

"Architecture is to be regarded by us with the most serious thought. We may live without her, and worship without her, but we cannot remember without her. How cold is all history, how lifeless all imagery, compared to that which the living nation writes, and the uncorrupted marble bears! --- how many pages of doubtful record might we not often spare, for a few stones left one upon another! The ambition of the old Babel builders was well directed for this world: there are but two strong conquerors of the forgetfulness of men. Poetry and Architecture; and the latter in some sort includes the former, and is mightier in its reality: it is well to have, not only what men have thought and felt, but what their hands have handled, and their strength wrought, and their eyes beheld, all the days of their life."

- John Ruskin

CHANGES IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:

Although not yet fully implemented, it seems clear that the federal government is in the process of drastically reducing its involvement in historic preservation. The following notes, gleaned from a directive issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior and published in the October issue of Preservation News, perhaps summarize the high (or low) points:

1. the federal government intends to "assure the future of preservation outside the federal budgetary process; and to restore stewardship responsibilities to appropriate levels of government". What this means for the National Trust, for example, is the elimination of its annual appropriation from the Interior Department (currently \$4.7 million); instead, a one-time endowment (unspecified amount) would be made available.
2. the government intends to "restore to state and local governments, without federal intervention, regulatory responsibilities". Some preservationists fear, however, that this will weaken their power, when the national unit does not stand behind them.
3. the government will "fulfill departmental stewardship responsibilities for preservation of non-federally owned historic properties of national landmark significance" only.
4. the government intends to encourage "private investment in the preservation of historic buildings ... through incentive in the tax system". For example, the new provisions will provide for a 15% investment tax credit (ITC) for "substantial rehabilitation" of commercial buildings at least 30 years old, a 20% ITC for commercial buildings at least 40 years old, and a 25% ITC for certified rehabilitation of historic buildings used for commercial and residential rental purposes. However, the new law repeals, among other things, the five-year amortization provision. The National Trust will work to amend this last provision in subsequent legislation.

BULLETIN! Since the above was published in Preservation News, a national historic preservation bill, funding, among other offices, the National Trust and the State Historic Preservation Offices, has been passed by Congress but has not been signed by the President. Apparently, the Congress believes that federal involvement in preservation should continue, in spite of the White House's proposed cuts. Whether the executive branch will veto the bill or reverse itself and sign it, remains to be seen. But for such offices as the Michigan State History Division in Lansing, an office which has been invaluable to preservationists in Ypsilanti, passage of the bill is crucial.

FARMERS' MARKET has NEW HOURS:

The Ypsilanti Indoor Farmers' Market, housed in the old Freight House in Depot Town, will be open on Friday evenings from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. now through Christmas. This is, of course, in addition to the Wednesday and Saturday hours of 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. You're missing a treat if you're doing all your shopping at the supermarket - nice people, friendly fellow customers, and some

AT THE MUSEUM:

The Annual Community-Wide Christmas Party will be held Sunday, Dec. 13
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
at the Museum. Refreshments will be served and the Lutheran Children's Choir will sing. Join the celebration!

Now on DISPLAY: a recent acquisition, the beautiful

YPSILANTI VISUAL ARTISTS' GUILD:

For Your Viewing Pleasure:

Ypsilanti's Visual Artists' Guild will be sponsoring & organizing the Holiday Artists' Market, to be held in the Depot Town Freight House (Farmers' Market Bldg) on Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:00 am-7:00 pm.

Thirty artists will be invited to display their works. Speciality items, such as wooden toys, rag dolls, and hand-painted Christmas ornaments will be offered at affordable prices.

For Your Listening Pleasure:

A jazz pianist and choral groups will add to the festivities.

For Your Tasting Pleasure:

The coffee shop will be serving holiday cookies, along with hot cider and coffee.

NEW FOUNDATION PROJECT:

The Mon. Nov. 9 edition of the Ann Arbor News carried a new feature - a list of properties in the Ypsilanti Historic District which have been noticeably improved in recent weeks. It's the Foundation's way of saying "Thanks!" to those property owners who are making this town a better place to live!

DETROIT BUSINESS COMBINES OLD AND NEW:

Next time you're in Detroit, be sure to pay a visit to Greektown and while there take a look at the amazing project known as Trappers Alley, which makes use of an old brick tannery and warehouse building. Even the no longer functional wooden water tower and brick smokestack have been retained. As a dramatic entryway the architects have built a geometrical steel-frame-supported roof of 867 panes of glass. Most important lesson for Ypsilanti and its large historic district is the point of view taken by the architectural firm: "We had to keep in mind that .. whatever we did with the buildings .. the final product had to be harmonious with existing Greektown. In spite of the vast amount of space we were dealing with, we couldn't allow it to overwhelm or even overshadow the character of the neighborhood". The lesson is clear: in older neighborhoods we need sensitive planners who know that old and new can work together to the enhancement of both.

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation NEWSLETTER

Editor: Jack Harris, 510 Pearl, 485-2155

